

APPENDIX B: GREENPRINT DICTIONARY

A few key terms were discussed by the Greenprint Cabinet during the development of the Greenprint. These terms are critical to some of the concepts and themes detailed in this plan.

Aquifer

A formation of rock, sand or gravel below the soil surface that allows the movement and storage of water.

Biodiversity

The variety of all lifeforms considered at all levels of organization, from the genetic level through the species and higher levels of taxonomic organization, and including the variety of habitats and ecosystems.

Biopolitics

The process by which natural resource decisions are made on qualitative data (public opinion, political perception of opinion, the willingness to support an idea, etc) more often than quantitative data (natural science, etc.).

Buffer

A strip of undeveloped or preserved land that acts as a protective barrier which is often comprised of vegetation. The Greenprint Cabinet discussed, but did not affirm, the following examples of typical buffer widths:

- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetlands-50 feet
- Saline wetlands- ¼ mile
- Existing trails- 50 feet
- Proposed trails- 50 feet
- Livestock operations- ¼ mile
- Arboreta- 100 feet
- First to sixth order streams- 25 feet

- Heritage sites- ¼ mile
- Dam sites- 50 feet
- Dam easements- 500 feet
- Smoke buffers for native prairie- ¼ mile

Community

A group of different species that are linked by ecological processes (e.g. predation, pollination, competition) at a given location.

Development

Physical change by human activity.

Easement

Legal restrictions on land held by another owner. Easements can be secured or purchased from landowners in order to protect sensitive resources in perpetuity.

Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species List

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's and/or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's list of species that are considered to be threatened or endangered and are protected under law.

Fragmentation

The breaking up of continuous areas of habitat into smaller parcels.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

A computer mapping and database program used to layer information.

Groundwater

Water that is stored within the earth in aquifers.

Habitat

Consists of the physical features and biological characteristics needed to provide food, shelter, and area for reproduction for wildlife.

Hydric Soils

Soils that have developed over time in anaerobic conditions. These are flood prone soils.

Impervious Surfaces

Surfaces that do not allow water to penetrate, such as concrete and asphalt.

Infiltration

The penetration of water into the soil and water table.

Infrastructure

Built structures, such as utility pipes, conduits, roads and buildings.

Landscape

A large land area that contains habitat.

Non-Point Source Pollution

Pollution not tied to a specific source, such as runoff from a field.

Patch

A spatially separate instance of a given type of habitat.

Permeability

The degree to which a surface or substance will permit liquids to pass through.

Point Source Pollution

Pollution that can be tied to a specific source, such as a pipe discharge.

Population

A group of individuals of the same species that reside in areas small enough that members of the group are reasonably likely to breed with one another.

Preservation

Actions taken to preserve and protect something for the future.

Recharge

Water that restores or refills an aquifer to its original level.

Reservoir

A place where water is collected and kept in quantity for use when wanted.

Saline Soil

Soil that has a higher than average salt content.

Signature Landscapes

A “signature landscape” is defined as a physical feature that is characteristic of the ecosystem in which a community is embedded, yet it

is also a unique or unusual manifestation of that ecosystem so that a particular community can identify with the physical feature.

The Lancaster County, Nebraska signature landscape contains elements of agriculture as pursued by family units committed to the land, and it contains wilderness characteristics of both the prairie ecosystem and the way that ecosystem is manifested in this location (as opposed to somewhere else). Lincoln and Lancaster County residents must be able to see open fields, family farm units, agricultural buildings, herds of large grazers, tree lines along streams, wetlands including saline wetlands, and associated wildlife, grasslands, the horizon, and lots of atmospheric phenomena in order to feel at home. Similarly, visitors to Lincoln and Lancaster County must be able to see all of these things in order to feel like they are visiting this location (as opposed to somewhere else).

Species Diversity

The number of different species of wildlife, or species richness, and their relative abundance in a given location.

Topography

The relief, elevation, structural relationship and position of the earth’s features.

Vegetation Type

A classification given to plants that are found in the same place on a landscape.

Watershed

The natural basin in the form of the earth that drains water into lakes and streams.

Water Table

The upper limit of the saturated water level underneath the earth’s surface. When the water table reaches the top of the earth’s surface, it forms water bodies.

Wetland

An ecosystem that harbors hydric soil, water tolerant vegetation, and is saturated with water at least part of the year.